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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, January 15, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended January 10 totaled an estimated 17.4 billion ton-miles, 0.6 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 2 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 32 billion ton-miles, 1.0 percent below the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended January 10 totaled 412,142 cars, 6.0 percent below 1980, but 21.8 percent higher than the preceding holiday week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 0.4 percent in the West, but down 16.3 percent in the East and 5.1 percent in the South.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 19 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, grain loadings were up 6,375 cars, or 21.6 percent; and metallic ores increased by 2,043 cars, or 7.6 percent. All but 2 of the 21 groups were up from the preceding holiday week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended January 3 totaled 20,311 cars, down 13.8 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 36,632 trailers and/or containers, 11.5 percent lower than last year. Both weeks included the New Year's Day holiday.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for tne week ended 01/10/81:

	Loadings in Week ended January 10, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	35,925	I	6,375	21.6	I	8,384	30.4
Other farm products	4,751	D	86	1.8	I	795	20.1
Metallic ores	28,848	I	2,043	7.6	I	2,038	7.6
Coal	102,095	D	1,405	1.4	I	10,387	11.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,429	D	2,668	20.4	I	3,018	40.7
Nonmetallic minerals	14,062	D	210	1.5	I	1,630	13.1
Grain mill products	16,313	D	2,925	15.2	I	4 137	34.0
Food and kindred products	16,065	D	2,567	13.8	I	3,259	25.4
Primary forest products	20,001	D	506	2.5	I	5,899	41.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,574	D	2,049	21.3	I	2,640	53.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	19,484	D	1,218	5.9	I	2,750	16.4
Chemicals and allied products	27,905	D	1,466	5.0	I	777	2.9
Petroleum products	6,026	D	561	8.5	I	822	15.8
Stone, clay and glass products	13,565	D	2,282	14.4	I	1,689	14.2
Coke	5,627	D	414	6.9	D	406	6.7
Metals and products	14,172	D	2,619	15.6	-	-	-
Motor vehicles and equipment	13,198	D	3,645	21.6	I	9,162	127.0
Waste and scrap materials	11,648	D	2,122	15.4	I	3,158	37.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	8,158	D	2,185	21.1	I	2,187	36.6
All other carloads	36,087	D	5,630	13.5	I	11,491	46.7
LCL traffic	209	D	41	16.4	I	64	44.1
Total Cars Loaded	412,142	D	26,184	6.0	I	73,881	21.8
Corresponding week of 1980	438,326						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (2 weeks)	750,403	807,011	D	7.0
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
Week ended January 3	14.2	14.7	D	3.0
Week ended January 10	17.4	17.2	I	0.6
2 Weeks cumulative	31.6	31.9	D	1.0

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